

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKING SESSION
CONFERENCE ROOM 113
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1999
8:15 A.M.

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Bernie Heier
Larry Hudkins
Linda Steinman
Bob Workman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Director
John Boehm, LIBA Budget Monitoring Committee
Ron Krejci, Hickman State Bank
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

Dave Kroeker, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the Fiscal Year 1999-2000 budget (Exhibit 1). Kroeker indicated the total restricted revenues projected for the year are \$40,038,968 and last year they were \$37,442,517 which is a 6.9% increase and with LB 989 the County will receive a 2.5% increase. Kroeker also stated the growth amount is estimated at 2.7%, which is defined as the change from last year's personal property values to this year's personal property values and any real estate as a result of new construction. He said a reappraisal doesn't count as growth, but new construction or improvements on property would be counted as growth. Kroeker indicated last year the growth was 3.4% and the County gets to take the excess over 2.5%, which last year was an amount of .009. Kroeker said other exceptions are the purchase of real property and improvements thereon, which would include improvements to buildings, buildings, roads and bridges. Kroeker indicated in the Building Fund, \$1,400,000 was levied for the new Attention Center and this year \$313,496 was levied, which means the County would need to lower the levy by \$1,086,504. Last year the Debt Service was \$855,660 and this year it is \$2,691,383, which is a net increase of \$836,284. Kroeker stated Commissioners Campbell and Steinman had concerns regarding the amount and said it should be decreased somehow.

Kroeker stated the Personal and Real Property Tax amount for this year is \$29,039,837 less the Library Fund leaves a balance of \$28,629,387 in property tax requirement and the estimated valuation would be \$10,780,262,557 or 26.57 per \$100 of value. He said last year it was 27.83 for a 4.5% reduction in the tax rate.

Kroeker referred to Exhibit 1 page 2 and reported there are several possibilities of cutting the \$836,284 out of the budget. He said there could be an increase in the County Treasurer's revenue of \$50,000 and an increase in the Register of Deeds revenue of \$50,000. Kroeker indicated there is an Indirect Cost plan done each year for Lancaster Manor and Indirect Costs include work done by the County Attorney, Safety & Training Office and Personnel and monies are allocated to each department. Lancaster Manor uses the total amount allocated, which is \$340,182, in justifying their cost to the State of Nebraska and Lancaster Manor also believes the monies need to be placed in the Renewal and Replacement Fund. Kroeker indicated the Depreciation Expense for 1999 is \$461,179 which is reimbursed by the State. He also said the actual amount placed in the Renewal and Replacement Fund was \$412,606. The report from Seim Johnson reflects an ending balance for FY99 of \$3,031,879 and Lancaster County has a balance of \$4,332,256 in the fund.

Campbell indicated the property tax dollar should not cover all the Indirect Costs utilized by Lancaster Manor.

Kroeker suggested transferring the following funds to the Keno Fund: Corrections Assessment at \$75,000, Corrections Elevator and Security Monitors at \$26,000 and 2 Voting Machines for the Election Commissioner at \$86,000 for a total amount of \$187,000.

COUNTY ENGINEER

Present were Don Thomas, County Engineer, Larry Worrell, County Surveyor and Candy Hunt, Administrative Aide.

Thomas appeared and reported there is a \$6,000 reduction in the budget regarding overtime. Thomas distributed documentation regarding the Bridge Fund (Exhibit 2) and the Highway Fund (Exhibit 3) and stated the Bridge Fund is covered by Property Tax dollars and the Highway Fund is covered by the Gas Tax and Motor Vehicle Sales Tax.

Thomas indicated there is an increase in rock/gravel of \$25,000 under both funds and there has been a 6% increase for the new rock/gravel prices for next year. Thomas said there is a big increase in the Right-of-Way and \$205,000 is for the Firth Viaduct, which will be reimbursed by the Railroad Transportation Safety District.

Thomas said the following is a list of the grading projects that are proposed:

- 7 SW 42nd Street towards Hallam - remove old concrete overflow
- 7 NW 126th Street and Bluff Road - \$84,000 project and NRD has agreed to pay ½ of cost
- 7 So 98th Street and Yankee Hill Road - add guard rails
- 7 W Fletcher Ave between 112th and 126th Street by Pawnee Lake and ½ mile of W Adams - 50% shared by the State, Department of Roads
- 7 SW 40th Street between A Street and Van Dorn
- 7 SW 33rd Street and Pleasant Hill Road (both ½ mile)
- 7 Yankee Hill Road between So 14th Street and So 27th Street - developer will pay ½ the cost of grading

Hudkins questioned the 8.5% reduction and said this year \$751,000 was budgeted and only \$587,000 was spent.

Thomas indicated he received really cheap prices for concrete, excavation, grading and rock.

Hudkins noted he would like to see some money set aside for cleaning out County roads and ditches, which haven't been cleaned out for years.

Thomas indicated the following is a list of pavement projects:

- 7 Arbor Road between Hwy 77 and 70th Street
- 7 Old Cheney Road between 98th Street to 112th Street
- 7 Cannongate (No 134th Street) 1½ from Amberly Road to Waverly Road
- 7 Yankee Hill Road - So 14th to So 27th Street at 75% cost by the developer
- 7 Pine Lake Road by Hidden Valley Golf Course to 112th Street

Thomas also said turn lanes will be installed on No 14th and Raymond Road and an agreement has been reached with the State to be reimbursed after the detour has been set.

Thomas indicated the following overlays are proposed for this year:

- 7 Denton Road from SW 12th to SW 40th Street
- 7 SW 12th Street from Rokeby Road to Denton Road
- 7 Pioneers Blvd from city limits to Hwy 77 bypass
- 7 So 68th Street from Roca Road to Saltillo Road
- 7 Roca Road between So 54th and So 68th Street
- 7 Amberly Road

Thomas reported there is not really an increase in the bridge category because there was a federal aid bridge project that was dropped that has now been rebudgeted.

Campbell asked about the second bridge.

Thomas indicated the second bridge is located at SW 58th Street and Panama Road and the bridge has been closed for 2 years. Thomas said there is an increase in the Engineering category because \$90,300 is for the design of the Saltillo viaduct at 127th Street.

Thomas stated appraisers increased because of the retirement of Ken Sherwood, who did most of the appraisals in-house. Thomas said he is hoping to find someone like Ken to replace him.

Hudkins also questioned the reduction in grading compared to last year and said he would support the increase if the County Engineer would allocate part of it towards cleaning out ditches and maintenance on roads.

Thomas said grading will continue to increase because more miles need to be graded.

Workman questioned the amount in bituminous surfacing and it being enough.

Thomas indicated there are 2 projects that have been delayed and one was to pave So 40th Street to Saltillo Road and the 2 miles of paving have been delayed, which was planned for FY 2000 and the other is the Denton overlay from 5½ miles to 2.

Kroeker asked Thomas if the fuel in the Bridge Fund is bought for various County agencies and if fuel was cheaper last year.

Thomas said yes.

Kroeker indicated the County Engineer's budget is paid out of the General Fund and transferred to the Bridge and Road Fund and the Highway Allocation money goes straight to the Highway Fund, which is a restricted revenue. Kroeker also said the Highway Allocation increased by \$150,000 or 4% and the other revenue the County Engineer receives is the Motor Vehicle Fee, which amounts to \$339,000 and last year it was \$313,000 or a 8.16% increase.

Hudkins said he wants to see something allocated for dealing with the cleanup of the county roads.

Campbell said the County Board needs to speak with the County Engineer and see if it is possible to put in the One & Six Road and Bridge Improvement Program a third listing of some areas where there should be a systematic approach to redoing some of the old roads and ditches.

Kroeker indicated last year \$325,000 was put in the Justice Fund Miscellaneous for attorney work, termination hearings and private attorney fees and it was decided this year to put the same amount for the Attention Center transition. Kroeker stated he spoke with Dennis Banks, Attention Center Director, and they agreed only \$50,000 would be needed for the fiscal year.

Kroeker said the County Assessor has requested 3 new cars for a total of \$50,000 and he reduced it by ½. He said the Assessor purchased 2 new Tauruses 2 years ago and before any money needs to be spent the Board needs to look at the mileage and number of cars that the Assessor's Office has. Kroeker indicated he would get a list of the cars from the County Assessor.

Kroeker reported he decreased the following agencies by certain costs:

- 7 County Assessor - Meals & lodging, telephone and printing for a total of \$5,000
- 7 County Treasurer - Supplies & printing for a total of \$20,000
- 7 District Court - Legal & juror fees for a total of \$40,000
- 7 County Sheriff - Fuel & vehicle repair and maintenance for a total of \$20,000
- 7 Attention Center - Temporary positions at \$15,000
- 7 County Attorney - Witness fees at \$15,000
- 7 Juvenile Court - Boarding contracts at \$50,000
- 7 Relief/Medical - Hospital costs at \$50,000

Kroeker stated the tax impact with all the possible budget adjustments has a total amount of \$897,000 plus \$6,000 for the overtime cut for the County Engineer.

Heier asked Kroeker if the Mayor's budget affected the joint agreements.

Kroeker said there was a \$33,415 increase in Planning because it was under budgeted for last year.

Campbell wanted to know if Lancaster County gets credit for the fees and said that the Board discovered that monies collected for the Planning and Building Safety fee had not been allocated as revenue.

Kroeker noted there are two funds that are not in the budget with one being the Grants Fund and the other would be the Families First & Foremost Fund. Kroeker noted Kit Boesch, Human Services Director, indicated to him to put in a line for that fund.

Campbell noted there is a joint project where Region V applied for a \$7 million grant and an agreement was drawn up between the 3 agencies, Lancaster County, State of Nebraska and Lancaster County as to how the agreement would be managed. She indicated all entities agreed that Lancaster County should administer the grant.

Campbell indicated the grant is to provide a whole new system of dealing with young people with mental health problems at risk of going into the Juvenile Justice System and the County has had an interest because of the programming emphasis with the Attention Center.

Steinman reported the Federal Government requires a match from the County and there was not a budget that showed a match and there is all kinds of matching money in programs that can be used.

MOTION: Steinman moved and Hudkins seconded to accept the budget with the recommendations including \$6,000 from the County Engineer. On call Heier, Steinman, Workman, Hudkins and Campbell voted aye. Motion carried.

At the direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk